



Lydia's Story

When you tell a story, know the framework of it well enough that you can tell it in your own words.

Hello. My name is Lydia. I am from the town of Thyatira, a place where purple cloth is made. Our cloth is so beautiful that wealthy people from all over the Roman Empire want to buy it. I moved to Philippi, a busy trading city, so I could sell purple cloth and make my living. Not only have I been able to take care of myself, but I have also been able to care for my entire household.

I have been a God-fearer for a long time. I wasn't born a Jew, although I worship God and try to live in the ways that please God. Here in Philippi, I meet with other women who also worship God. On the Sabbath we meet beside the river to pray to God together.

One Sabbath day as we were praying we saw some men coming toward us. We wondered if they might be Jews, worshipping God like us. I welcomed

them to join us for prayer. They introduced themselves and we began to talk. It wasn't long before Paul told us about Jesus, a remarkable person who shared God's love with everyone.

Paul told us that Jesus said God's love was for everyone: women and men, children and adults, Jews and those who were not born Jewish, people from every town and country. Jesus taught that there was nothing that could keep any one of us from God's love.

My heart opened up! I felt filled with God's love as I listened to Paul. I wanted to learn more about this Jesus who shared God's love equally with everyone. I wanted to be part of Jesus' followers and welcome others to share in God's love. I asked Paul to baptize me as a follower of Jesus and he did. When I told the people in my household about what Jesus said about God's love, they all wanted to be baptized as followers of Jesus, too. Paul and Silas baptized them all.

What a Sabbath! I invited Paul and Silas to my house to celebrate. I think I surprised them with my invitation and hospitality. I insisted they come. I wanted to hear more about Jesus.